

National Congress Bulletin

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS
1201 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.



NOVEMBER 1938

HOME-SCHOOL RADIO SERIES BEGINS THIS MONTH WEDNESDAYS, 9:30-10:00 P.M., E.S.T., NBC BLUE NETWORK

TO further education as a home-school-community responsibility, a series of weekly radio programs in dramatic form will be sponsored by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers in cooperation with the U. S. Office of Education, with the assistance of the Works Progress Administration, beginning in November and continuing for 26 weeks. The programs will be broadcast each Wednesday from 9:30 to 10:00 P.M., Eastern Standard Time, over the blue network of the National Broadcasting Company (8:30 P.M., Central Time; 7:30 P.M., Mountain Time; 6:30 P.M., Pacific Time).

The purpose of the broadcasts is to stimulate general interest in the education and welfare of children and young people. Emphasis will be placed on education as a continuous process which goes on in the home and in the community, as well as in the school, and an effort will be made to encourage closer cooperative effort in local communities for the education of the young. Dramatizations will be used, in which a typical American family will be the medium for introducing educational topics and problems. Home, classroom, or community situations, will be the background for the discussion of the problems.

Scripts will be written and the programs produced under the direction of a committee representing the National Congress of Parents and Teachers and the U. S. Office of Education. Each script will be reviewed by specialists in education and human relationships, in order to insure a sound approach to the subject under consideration.

The problem of junior's spending, the dilemma of dad and the radio, the acute family pain over homework—these and many other daily "dramas" will be presented as vivid pictures of present day home and school life. The evening hour 9:30-10:00 will make possible family listening groups and parent-teacher group study and discussion. This presentation and solution of common problems offered at a popular hour will undoubtedly encourage community participation in all questions and situations pertaining to the education and welfare of children and youth.

Parents and teachers will find new illustrations and new ways of bringing into closer relationship the home, and the school, and the community.

Supplementary information, listener aids, and discussion outlines will be presented in the *National Parent-Teacher* magazine, the *NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN*, and *School Life*. Listeners will be invited to submit problems and subjects for consideration.

The programs will be available to all radio stations included in the National Broadcasting Company's blue network, and stations may or may not carry the programs.

Facts About Our Locals

FROM THE ANNUAL
LOCAL UNIT SUMMARY

THE three leading parent-teacher activities carried on the year round as shown in the local unit reports are:

Safety	10,034
Parent Education	8,765
Music	8,165

Under SAFETY the following interesting activities were reported:

Cooperated with county safety council regarding bicycle riding

Gave special attention to school bus transportation

Presented playlet on accident prevention in the home

Sponsored ordinance to stop sale of fireworks in the county

Organized study and discussion on home, school, and community safety

PARENT EDUCATION was carried on through such activities as the following:

Cooperated with department of education in promoting leadership classes

Organized listening groups in the national radio series

Developed association and study group programs dealing with needs of different age-level groups

Set up special evening programs on parent education to interest men

Promoted circulation of materials dealing with parent education

MUSIC activities reported by local associations included:

Promoted choruses of mothergroups, fathergroups, teachergroups, mixed groups

Made music education available to talented and underprivileged children

Cooperated in observing Music Week

Sponsored symphony concerts for school children

Promoted an evening of music by foreign-born members

*The Bulletin will be available to other subscribers at the subscription price of 20c a year.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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The NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN is published for the local parent-teacher association. It is sent monthly from September through June to the parent-teacher association president.* If a new president is elected during the school year, the retiring president is responsible for placing the BULLETIN in the hands of the new president in order that the BULLETIN service may not be interrupted. This is important since it is impossible to change the mailing list during the subscription year. The National Congress is depending on the cooperation of each of our loyal local presidents in this matter.



Signposts and Guides

INTERPRETING THE GUIDING

PRINCIPLES OF PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS

“A CONGRESS parent-teacher association has for its purpose the promotion of the education and welfare of children and youth.”

—GUIDING PRINCIPLE NUMBER ONE

PURPOSE—Webster defines “purpose” as “the end or aim to be kept in view.” The ideals and purposes expressed by the founders of the organization forty-one years ago are still the aims of the organization today. A review from time to time of the aims and ideals of the parent-teacher movement will enable the association to appraise its achievements in terms of the objectives in order that the association may not depart from the purpose to which all of Congress endeavors are dedicated. These common objectives provide a unity of purpose for the entire membership.

PROMOTE—Webster defines “promote” as “to exalt in station, rank, or honor, to elevate, to advance, to contribute to growth; to forward; to encourage.” These words carry with them a description of higher and ever higher standards for parents and teachers in keeping with the progress of a new day. In the early years the promotion of the work consisted largely of buying equipment for the schools and the community. The trend of today’s promotion is to develop public opinion so that each community will meet its own responsibilities. As the type of promotion has changed so have the methods. An increasingly effective leadership is now utilizing newer methods to develop a participating membership as well as an informed leadership.

EDUCATION—Webster defines “education” as “the totality of the information and qualities acquired through instruction and training which further the development of an individual, physically, mentally and morally.” In the early development of the work the parent-teacher association supported the educational program mainly through material gifts. This type of assistance was often the first step towards home and school cooperation. In many cases it served to demonstrate the need for the materials supplied. The organization in the early years sometimes offered advice and assistance in the conduct of schools, and an over-zealous desire to

make a contribution to the education of children and youth resulted in activities which interfered with school administration. And thus developed the need for guiding principles for the interpretation of our objects. Today Congress parent-teacher associations are promoting a program of education that will co-ordinate home, school, and community activities for the development of the whole child. For example, the child is taught in the school the need for the toothbrush, but the use of this is demonstrated in the home.

WELFARE—Webster defines the word “welfare” as “the state of faring or doing well; the state or condition in regard to

well-being; the condition of health, happiness, prosperity, good cheer.” In the early years the parent-teacher association interpreted the welfare program as concerned with the material needs of children. Today parent-teacher associations are more concerned with preventive and protective measures in health, recreation, juvenile protection, legislation. The discussions of conditions and the discipline of juvenile courts has given place to the promotion of health and behavior clinics. The sentimentality connected with motherhood has developed into sentiment for parent education. The review and discussion of individual books has been replaced by practical plans for making books available to all communities. The emphasis upon formal gymnastics to develop the “high head” and the “strong body” has given way to the modern recreation program.

Every Congress parent-teacher association needs to evaluate its program by asking such questions as: Does our parent-teacher association have for its purpose the promotion of the education and welfare of children and youth as evidenced by its meeting programs and activities? Are we using plans adapted to the modern social age?

The founders set a goal: today 2,222,218 parents and teachers are striving to achieve that goal. Forty-one years of service have resulted in a growing alertness to the part that parent-teacher associations can play in the promotion of the education and welfare of children and youth.

“Children and youth are being educated every day by every influence of their environment. Parents and the home are, in the earliest years, the most important educational factors. The school and the community come next. Only as all these agencies unite will plans for better and happier living be realized.” —JOHN FINLEY, *Editor*,

New York Times

“There cannot be two sets of ethical principles, one for life in the school, and the other for life outside the school. As conduct is one, so also the principles of conduct are one.”

—JOHN DEWEY,
Educational Philosopher

About Publications

COMPANION BOOKS

Companion subjects which are of immediate concern to every parent-teacher member are discussed in detail in the two books *Our Homes* and *Our Public Schools*. Parents and teachers are equally interested in what makes a good home and a good school, what the home can do towards more effective planning, how the school can meet the needs of children and youth of today, and how the home and the school can work together in a cooperative program for the education and welfare of children and youth.

Logically and compactly presented, the material found in these two books is particularly adapted for the use of discussion groups in parent-teacher meetings, for building talks and addresses, for quick reference or quiet study, for the casual reading of citizens who wish to keep in touch with subjects of vital and current interest.

These attractively illustrated books are available as a combination purchase for 38c. Either book can be purchased separately in durable cloth binding for 50c, or in attractive paper binding for 25c. Order through the state office.

Parent-Teacher News

ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE EDUCATION AND WELFARE OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Juvenile Protection

ONE parent-teacher association helped to organize parents, representatives of the law and of welfare groups, a Boy Scout executive, a principal of an elementary school, and the county superintendent of elementary education into a group to deal with boys and girls who are becoming problems in school and community life, and try to prevent their developing into genuine delinquency cases.

● An elementary and a junior highschool association cooperated in two summer activities in one community. Through united efforts they secured a branch of the public library in one of their buildings and assisted in keeping it in use throughout the summer by informing the public about new books and telling the children about the junior reading club—the “Flying Carpet.”

The associations also secured the cooperation of the board of education in keeping the swimming pool open in the junior highschool for the summer. They informed the public about this project through the newspapers, giving information on reserved hours, special events, and items of interest.

Programs Arousing Group Interest

MANY local associations in one state have adopted the following plan to increase interest and membership participation in P.T.A. programs. Subtopics on the general theme of the next meeting program are assigned to each of five or six members; they prepare seven-minute talks on these subtopics to be presented at the next meeting. In this way the general topic of the meeting is built up through individual presentation of seven-minute talks on various subtopics.

The meeting is thrown open to discussion on the completion of the prepared talks and every member has an opportunity to make his particular contribution to the meeting topic. Discussion is noticeably freer than usual after this type of program, due to the informal, member presentation of the topic.

● One P.T.A. featured a debate on the question, “Resolved that modern parental discipline is too lax.” The debate was carried on both by P.T.A. members and by pupils of the public speaking classes.

● Here is a new type of cooperative program—a local association in a rural community reports a program in charge

of the members of two families in the community.

● Another local association found this interesting way of arousing group interest—a demonstration of a “family council” was conducted following the regular business meeting.

● The feature at one meeting of a local unit was a discussion on “What Parents Have a Right to Expect from Teachers; What Teachers Have a Right to Expect from Parents; and What Children Have a Right to Expect from Both.”

● One local P.T.A. arranged a circulating library of reference and textbooks for the use of those in the community taking parent education courses. Another local association purchased the books for the parents in their P.T.A. who were taking parent education courses.

About Publications

INDEX TO CONGRESS PUBLICATIONS

Program chairmen, publications chairmen, presidents—all who are called upon to speak or write on some phase of parent-teacher work, will welcome the new folder, *Index to Congress Publications*.

In this one small folder a wealth of material is listed under each subject committee as well as under some organization committees and special subjects. The *Index* indicates not only the material available from the state office on each of the twenty-eight subjects treated, but also related articles in Congress books and recent issues of the *National Parent-Teacher*.

The *Index to Congress Publications* will be helpful in planning an effective Congress bookshelf and will be invaluable in promoting the use of the material on the bookshelf. Try circulating a marked copy of the *Index* among the members before a meeting or sending to those interested in some particular subject a list of the references given under that subject in the *Index*. This folder, as well as selections from all other material listed on pages 4-11 of the *Publications Announcement*, may be secured without charge from your state office.

Community Recreation

THE recreation chairman of one association has been able to secure supervised playgrounds three nights a week. This recreation program has definitely filled a community need by affording good fun for adolescents, adults, and children. From sixty to eighty adults and children are using this neighborhood recreation center.

● One association carried on an outstanding community recreation project for July 4 by sponsoring for that day a Community Picnic and Field Day, thus offering to people of that area not only the opportunity of having an enjoyable 4th of July, but also a safe one.

● Local associations united in one community in sponsoring supervised playgrounds during the summer months. The playgrounds were located at five centers easily accessible to children from all sections of the city; four were located on school grounds, the fifth in a public park. Activities included baseball, volleyball, tennis, horse shoes, croquet, clay modeling, handicraft, and sand boxes; all centers were equipped with swings and teeters. Each center was supervised by a person trained in playground work, assisted by highschool or college students interested in gaining experience in athletics and leadership.

More than 25,000 children attended the five playgrounds during the eight weeks the project was carried on.

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Our National Magazine

"WE are living in a new age." These words are often heard. They become especially significant when we realize the changes which have taken place, one of the most important being the growth of popular concern for the welfare and education of children and youth. Everywhere parents and teachers and other adults interested in providing for future citizens the proper conditions for mental and physical growth and for the fullest, happiest life are thinking, planning, and acting together. Today parents and teachers instead of relying strictly upon their own judgment are finding help and guidance from many sources, and wherever they come

together to consider their problems the *National Parent-Teacher* finds a warm response. To parents and teachers, to professional workers in other phases of adult education, and to all interested in the parent-teacher movement the *National Parent-Teacher* offers information and source material for use in the education and training of children. It arouses interest in developing ways and means by which this information may be used in coordinating activities in home, school, and community.

The articles presented each month discuss the experiences of the younger generation in the various fields of their growth and development—physical, mental, emotional, and social. These discussions do not belong exclusively to any one age level, but rather can be adapted to all age levels since they deal with the basic principles of child guidance.

PREVIEW OF THE NOVEMBER ISSUE

Springs on the Mountain Who are your best friends? What joy do you find in their companionship? In "Springs on the Mountain" Robert P. Tristram Coffin speaks lovingly of his friends. He says: "A good library is the best neighbor a man can have. A few books are cities of friends."

The Citizen in the Nursery Dr. Ada Hart Arlitt wrote the third article in the Parent-Teacher Study Course. She points out the qualities necessary for good citizenship—qualities which can be learned and practised by "The Citizen in the Nursery."

Choosing Books for Our Children "Read it again!" What an eager and delightful cry! How often have you heard it from your children? In "Choosing Books for Our Children" May Lamberton Becker considers the place of literature in the child's life and offers helpful suggestions that should be remembered when selecting books for young people—books that will call forth the expression of joy, "Read it again!"



The other day we met a woman we knew. She was on her way into a bookstore. She was in a great hurry. She hastened to tell us that she had heard that morning of a new book concerning the education and welfare of children and she simply had to have a copy of it to show to the members of her P.T.A. that afternoon.

The book cost \$2.50. "But," said she, "the P.T.A. will pay for it. The officers let me get anything like this that will help the members. If I have the book there to show them today I know a number of them will want to get it—and will they be glad I brought it to their attention!"

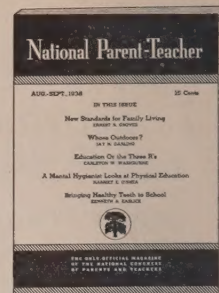
We scurried along with her and inquired: "Have you received the new issue of the *National Parent-Teacher*?" "Yes," she answered, "but I haven't had time to open it." We then asked her if she had ever thought of it as she was thinking of this new book. She had not. So we slowed her up long enough to invite her to compare the articles in ten issues of the Magazine with the chapters in the book, and the contributors to the Magazine with the authors of the chapters, and the price of the Magazine with the price of the book. And we left her.

Several days later we got a letter from her ordering three subscriptions. Underscored was this sentence: "I compared them."

We know another order will come in soon from that association!

Take steps to acquaint all of the members of your group with the *National Parent-Teacher*. The sooner they subscribe, the sooner they will profit by reading it. *Invite them to subscribe at the next meeting.* Send today for the free Promotion Packet for your Magazine chairman.

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A Community Problem Five million young people, one out of every four in the country, are without any constructive occupation at school or at work or at home. "A Community Problem" by Eva May Luse deals with the subject of these five million young unemployed people and what can be done to preserve their hopes and ambitions and ideals.

Conserving Vision in the School Child "Good eyesight is one of the most precious gifts given to man." This statement, made by Dr. Maurice L. Wieselthier in his article "Conserving Vision in the School Child," is one with which no one could or would take issue. Yet, what is being done to guard and conserve this priceless gift of good vision? Dr. Wieselthier discusses the preventive measures necessary in sight conservation, as well as the role of the parent and teacher in this important work.

A Father Growing Up What would you do if after many years of being a bachelor and looking at parenthood askance, you not only got married but acquired a twelve-year-old son? Could you succeed in the role of parenthood? Could Douglas Stapleton? Let Mr. Stapleton himself tell you his absorbing and delightful story in "A Father Growing Up."

● Other Articles and Features: "Keeping the Theater Alive" by the eminent dramatist, Orson Welles; "Stimulating Speech in Young Children" by Mary Oliver; "A 1938 Thanksgiving" (Plans and Programs) by James Edward Rogers; and "Emotional Ties That Hinder" by Rowena W. Cassat . . . Katherine M. Turner contributes the third article on the "Guiding Principles" . . . Dr. Paul Monroe is the author of the Editorial, "Can the Schools Do Better?"

The subscription price of the *National Parent-Teacher* is only \$1 a year.